

DRAFT
THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
MINUTES
FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2012

The Virginia Board of Social Work ("Board") meeting convened at 10:10 a.m. on Friday, April 20, 2012 at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia. Wayne Martin, Chair called the meeting to order.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Blosser
Willie T. Greene, Sr.
Yvonne Haynes
Susan Horne-Quatannens
Wayne A. Martin, Chair
Art Mayer
Catherine L. Moore
Nettie Simon-Owens
Patricia Smith-Solan

STAFF PRESENT: Howard Casway, Sr. Assistant Attorney General
Catherine Chappell, Acting Executive Director
Sarah Georgen, Administrative Assistant
Patricia L. Larimer, Deputy Executive Director – Discipline
Charlotte Lenart, Administrative Assistant
Arne Owens, DHP Chief Deputy Director
Dianne Reynolds-Cane, DHP Director
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst

ORDERING OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Salay, LCSW, Dominion Day Services expressed the need for a competent workforce within the Social Work community. He stated that he had attended the Association of Community Based Service Providers meeting that took place on April 18, 2012, in which Dr. Reynolds-Cane and Ms. Chappell presented an overview of the licensing process and provided opportunity for stakeholders to receive answers to their questions/concerns regarding regulation of behavioral health providers. Mr. Salay expressed appreciation for the collaborative efforts that state agencies are forging with the provider community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 20, 2012 BOARD MEETING

Ms. Smith-Solan moved that the minutes of the January 20, 2012 Board meeting be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Haynes and passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – DR. REYNOLDS-CANE

Dr. Reynolds-Cane provided updates on legislation passed in the last General Assembly session which had impacted the Department of Health Professions and thanked Ms. Yeatts for her continuing support in these endeavors.

She advised that the interviews for a permanent Executive Director were complete and the selection process was currently in progress. The decision would be made in the next 30 days.

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – CATHERINE CHAPPELL

Staffing Update. Ms. Chappell provided the Board with an update on staffing concerns. She reported that staff was working efficiently and effectively to ensure a seamless transition following Ms. Brown's departure in December 2011 and the appointment of a permanent Executive Director.

Licensing Activity. She reported that during the last quarter, ending March 31, 2012, the Board was responsible for 5,770 licensees. Board staff received 209 new applications and registration requests, and licensed 109 new licenses during the quarter.

Outreach. Ms. Chappell reported that staff continues its outreach efforts to the Board's stakeholders, applicants and professional organizations with the goal of educating them on supervision and licensing requirements. As a result, there has been an increase in the quantity and quality of applications received, whereby the applications appear to be more complete and detailed which leads to more efficient turnaround.

Ms. Chappell provided additional information on the Association of Community Based Service Providers meeting which took place on April 18, 2012, in which the needs of practitioners and the public were addressed.

Financial Status Update. Ms. Chappell distributed a report of the Board's finances for the past month in an effort to provide transparency and for Board member information. She noted that as of February 29, 2012, sufficient cash flow existed, but that the Board was projecting a cash shortfall for December 31, 2012, which is an ongoing trend during the 18th month of each renewal cycle for the Board.

DISCIPLINE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – PATRICIA LARIMER

Ms. Larimer reported that since the last meeting, the Board closed nineteen (19) old cases and received 21 new disciplinary cases. At the present time, there are twenty-nine (29) disciplinary cases pending. Currently, six (6) cases are being investigated by the Enforcement Division and thirteen (13) cases are at Board level to be reviewed for probable cause. Two (2) cases are at the Administrative Proceedings Division level for preparation of informal conference notices.

Ms. Larimer reported that three (3) informal conferences had been scheduled for March 9, 2012. Two of the cases were settled beforehand with Consent Orders. The third informal conference resulted in an appeal to a formal hearing, which will be scheduled for July 20, 2012. Ms. Horne-Quatannens, Ms. Haynes, Ms. Moore, Ms. Blosser and Ms. Simon-Owens volunteered to sit on the formal hearing panel.

Ms. Larimer reported that, as a result of the Continuing Education (“CE”) audit performed on October 17, 2011, there are two (2) cases that need to be scheduled for informal conferences and six (6) cases that resulted in the offer of confidential consent agreements for not meeting the CE requirements of the regulations.

Ms. Larimer reported that nine requests for credential informal conferences were received as a result of the deferrals of applications from the Credentials Committee. Eight of the informal conferences have been scheduled for two days in June 2012.

REGULATORY/LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – ELAINE YEATTS, SR. POLICY ANALYST

Ms. Yeatts provided an update of legislation from the 2012 session of the General Assembly.

She stated that the Board of Social Work has two (2) sets of regulations that were awaiting approval: proposed regulations to provide for a fee increase and change in renewal cycle are at the Secretary’s office; and proposed regulations to clarify licensure requirements are at the Governor’s office.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE – YVONNE HAYNES/ELAINE YEATTS

Ms. Haynes reported that the Regulatory Committee met on February 24, 2012 and received public comment from Debra Riggs, Executive Director of the NASW, Virginia Chapter regarding concerns with changes to regulations, guidelines and the application process in Virginia.

At that meeting, Ms. Yeatts had noted that the upcoming Title Protection law which will become effective July 1, 2013, may impact the board with an increase in applications for licensure.

The Committee had discussed Continuing Education (“CE”) requirements regarding face-to-face contact hours and whether the Board should require a minimum amount of face-to-face CE hours.

The Committee also had discussed the possible implementation of a master’s-level social work license as an option to individuals who may not intend to seek clinical-level licensure. Ms. Yeatts suggested that the implementation of a mid-level licensure may meet the needs of persons in situations that require them to be “license eligible.” She stated that it would equip a provider to practice with a license, but not allow them to hold independent licensure.

Ms. Chappell stated that the ASWB suggests tiered-level licensure. In many states, an individual must be licensed at the master’s level before they are allowed to begin a supervised practice leading to a clinical license. Establishing the Masters-level category of licensure may bring a significant number of individuals under the jurisdiction of the Board, and may satisfy the requirement of “license-eligible” status for their employers to receive funding from Medicaid. Ms. Chappell stated that DMAS and DBHDS have expressed interest in working with the Board in seeking solutions.

Ms. Yeatts suggested that the Board receive feedback from stakeholders such as DMAS, DBHDS and professional organizations regarding a mid-level licensure.

Ms. Blosser moved to endorse proposing legislation that would authorize the Board to issue a Master’s level licensure, secondary to passing a Master’s level examination. The motion was seconded by Ms. Horne-Quatannens and carried unanimously.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE – CATHERINE MOORE

Ms. Moore reported that the Credentials Committee met on January 20, 2012, immediately following the last Board meeting and considered 18 licensure requests. She stated that files are referred to the Committee for decision when the contracted Credentials Reviewer is unable to make a determination. The files sent to the Committee represent a small percentage of the applications that are processed each quarter.

Ms. Moore stated that the Committee approved one (1) application for examination; denied eight (8) applications due to insufficiently documented practicum, education and/or experience; deferred one (1) application because additional information was needed; and approved eight (8) requests for an extension to take the ASWB examination.

Ms. Moore noted that the Committee would convene immediately following the Board meeting to consider 19 files relating to clinical supervision, education and examination.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – JENNIFER BLOSSER/PATRICIA SMITH-SOLAN

Ms. Smith-Solan and Ms. Blosser proposed the following slate of officers for consideration:

Chair:	Susan Horne-Quatannens
Vice-Chair:	Arthur Mayer

The election would be held at the conclusion of the meeting, and change in officers would occur at that time.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Horne-Quatannens asked the Board to further discuss distance therapy as it relates to providing a client with therapy by electronic means. She stated that she was scheduled to attend an ASWB conference, on scholarship and at no expense to the Board, and would report back to the Board any information that they offered on distance therapy.

Several board members expressed concern regarding the confidentiality of providing clinical social work services electronically, though a program such as Skype.

Ms. Moore stated that the Credentials Committee had received a request to consider electronic supervision and requested input from the Board.

Mr. Martin asked the Board to consider this issue further at the next meeting, with focus on electronic communication for both clinical supervision and therapy with clients.

NEW BUSINESS

The motion to accept Susan Horne-Quatannens as Chair of the Board of Social Work and Arthur Mayer as Vice Chair was seconded and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Wayne Martin, Chair

Catherine Chappell, Acting Executive Director